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RECORDS GALORE AS PANT BREAKS BANK

BIG PAY DAY FOR SKIPPERS

Rishabh Pant became the most expensive player on day one of the auction in Jeddah. A look...

While Shreyas Iyer was the first to go in the history books when he was signed for ₹26 crore by Punjab Kings, Pant went past him as Lucknow Super Giants went as high as ₹27 crore for the keeper-batter. KL Rahul, meanwhile, was signed by Delhi Capitals for ₹14 crore | PTI

NOTABLE SIGNINGS

The other key signings were Venkatesh Iyer (₹20 cr) for KKR, Arshdeep Singh (₹18 cr) for PBKS, Y Chahal (₹18 cr) for PBKS, Mohammed Siraj (₹12.5 cr) to GT, R Ashwin (₹9.75 cr) and Noor Ahmad (₹10 cr) to CSK, and Ishan Kishan (₹11.25 cr) for SRH

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November 30, 5.30 pm

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Decision on Maharashtra CM choice today

Sources: Fadnavis tipped to lead govt; Home may go to Shinde camp; swearing-in likely tomorrow

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

AMID intense speculation over who will be the next Maharashtra chief minister, the BJP's top leadership is expected to finalise the name on Monday, it is learnt. Informed sources told this newspaper that the swearing-in ceremony of the Mahayuti government is most likely to take place on Tuesday evening as November 26 is the last day of the current assembly term. If the ceremony gets delayed by even one day, then President's Rule will kick in, said a senior leader.

Shiv Sena leader Deepak Kesarkar said the oath-taking ceremony may be held on Monday, though BJP sources denied it. "The BJP and allies are set to meet on Monday to finalise their decision on the CM pick," said a senior BJP leader. Asource privy to the decision making claimed Devendra Fadnavis is most likely to be named the CM with two Dy-CMs. Sources said, the Home Department may be offered to Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena.

According to BJP insiders, Fadnavis has emerged as a master strategist this time and his prowess to run alliance smoothly will also work in his favour.

On November 26, there is joint session of Parliament on account of the Samvidhan Divas. Thereafter, PM Narendra Modi and other seniors are expected to fly to Mumbai to attend the oath-taking ceremony, sources said.

The CM and the DyCMs may take oath on Tuesday, while the swearing-in of others will likely take place later after finalising the list of the ministers for each party. The venue of the swearing-in has not been decided but it could be either the Wankhede Stadium or Shivaji Park, sources said.

The BJP-led Mahayuti alliance has Shiv Sena (Shinde) and NCP (Ajit Pawar) as partners. In the recent polls, BJP emerged as the single largest party. In the previous term of the Mahayuti government, the BJP supported Shinde as CM even though it was the single largest party. Fadnavis agreed to become deputy CM on the advice of the top leadership of BJP.

(With inputs from Mumbai bureau)

SOREN STAKES CLAIM TO FORM GOVT, OATH-TAKING ON NOV 28

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

THE new Jharkhand government will be sworn in on Thursday, Chief Minister Hemant Soren said on Sunday after meeting Governor and staking claim to form the next government.

"The process of formation of the new government has started. I met the Governor and submitted my resignation and staked claim to form the new government. The Governor has invited us to form the government," Soren said. Soren will be sworn in as the 14th chief minister of Jharkhand. Earlier in the day, a meeting of the INDIA bloc's legislative party was held at the official residence of the chief minister in Ranchi to elect Hemant Soren as the legislative party leader. Soren, who has resigned as Chief Minister, was appointed by the governor as acting CM till Thursday, when the new government will be sworn in.

This is the first time a government is retaining power in Jharkhand, which was formed on November 15, 2000. In the results declared on November 23, Soren's JMM-led INDIA alliance won for a second consecutive term winning 56 of the 81 Assembly seats. The majority mark is 41 seats. JMM alone has 34 seats. The BJP-led alliance won 24 seats.

Hemant Soren hands over his resignation to Governor Santosh Gangwar (left) | PTI

One minister for five MLAs

One ministerial post for every five MLAs is a formula that is being considered by INDIA bloc in Jharkhand. If a consensus is reached on it, JMM will have six ministers, Congress three and RJD one. There may be new faces in the cabinet as four ministers – Mithilesh Thakur, Baidyanath Ram, Baby Devi and Banna Gupta lost their seats

Climate talks end with mere $300 bn pledge

S V KRISHNA CHAITANYA

EXPRESS IN BAKU

THE United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku concluded on Sunday amid high drama with the adoption of a controversial agreement to triple climate finance for developing countries to $300 billion annually by 2035 as against the $1.3 trillion sought by developing countries per year until 2030.

The process and the amount agreed upon faced strong opposition from India and other developing nations. India, a prominent voice among developing countries, rejected the proposal outright, calling the agreed-upon financial goal inadequate and unfairly distributed. Chandni Raina, adviser to the Department of Economic Affairs and part of India's negotiating team, described the sum as "abysmally poor" and "a paltry amount". CONTINUED ON: P9

EXPRESS READ

BJP, JDS net as helped us win Channapatna: DKS

Bengaluru: A day after Congress swept the byelections in Karnataka, DyCM DK Shivakumar said BJP and JDS leaders extended their tacit support to party candidate CP Yogeshwara, ensuring his victory against NDA's Nikhil Kumaraswamy. On JDS leader GT Devegowda's statement that he would join Congress if that is the desire of his supporters, "It is not just GT Devegowda's opinion... a lot of people want to do it." | P4

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